ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

SOUTH BETHEL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

Thomasville Baptist Church,

October 1, 2, 3 and 4, 1891.

OFFICERS.

J. R. COWAN, Moderator.....Cunningham, Ala.
J. H. CREIGHTON, Clerk.....Whatley, "
J. D. COWAN, Treasurer.....Bashi, "

The next session will be held with the Forest Springs Church, in Clarke County, Ala., on Thursday before third Sunday in September, 1892.

MONTGOMERY, ALA.:
THE ALABAMA PRINTING COMPANY,
1891.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Home Missions—S. A. Adams, Salitpa, Ala.; R. J. W. DeWitt, J. A. Hill.
State Missions—I. W. Martin, Walker Springs; T. J. Cowan, B. Boroughs.
Foreign Missions—W. A. Parker, Thomasville; Geo. F. Nichols, Albert Prim.
Ministerial Education—W. D. Dunn, Grove Hill.
Executive Committee—W. H. DeWitt, Nicholsville; J. H. Creighton, W. H. Williamson.
Spiritual Condition of the Churches—H. Adams, J. C. Guinn, R. G. Trawick.
Sunday-schools—John F. Murphy, T. J. Bettis, W. L. Henderson.
Bible and Colportage Work—W. A. Parker, C. W. Burge, J. W. Armistead.
Religious Literature—J. H. Creighton, J. F. Murphy, W. N. Nichols.
Temperance—I. Grant, T. A. Creighton, M. N. Harris.
Woman's Work—J. H. Fendley, W. N. Molton, W. T. Kimbrough.
Aged and Infirm Ministers—S. A. Adams, A. B. Hudson, T. L. Williams.
Order of Business—J. H. Creighton, W. S. Henderson, J. D. Cowan.

MINUTES.

The eighth annual session of the South Bethel Association convened with the Thomasville Baptist church, at Thomasville, Clarke county, Ala., Thursday, October 1, 1891, and was called to order by the Moderator, J. R. Cowan.

Bro. W. H. DeWitt conducted the devotional exercises, reading 2nd chap. of Eph.

The introductory sermon was preached by Bro. S. A. Adams. Text, Phil. 3:10.

After the sermon, the Moderator appointed Bros. W. A. Parker and J. F. Murphy to read the letters from the churches, and the delegates were enrolled as follows :

Cane Creek—E. L. Morgan, R. L. Morgan, W. J. Champion.
Ulconush—M. N. Harris, H. Fendley, J. Miller.
Dead Level—W. J. Clanton.
Forest Springs—N. J. Ethridge, J. W. Armistead, J. S. Henson.
Enon—T. J. Pearson, G. W. Morgan.
Elam—T. L. Williams, T. L. Bedsole.
Peniel—No delegates.
Mt. Gilead—J. C. Guinn, A. B. Hudson.
Thomasville—W. L. Henderson, W. A. Parker, Harry Hunter.
Hoboken—L. M. Tucker.
Midway—J. D. Hudson, D. A. Megginson, C. G. Fendley.
Mt. Vernon—E. Autery, J. V. Champion, James Autery.
Stave Creek—R. J. W. DeWitt.
Bassett's Creek—J. H. Fendley, R. T. Wilson, J. D. Stephens.
Pleasant Grove—E. L. Davis, T. J. Pitman.
West Bend—J. R. Cowan, T. J. Cowan, G. Scruggs.
New Prospect—H. White, W. E. Burke.
Witch Creek—M. S. Dunnagan.
Horeb—T. A. Creighton, J. H. Creighton, R. L. Carter.
Evergreen—J. F. Murphy.
Jackson—Albert Primm.
Amity—L. A. Larimore, Mrs. Mattie Hill, Miss Annie Hill.
Canetoucha—H. A. Sherman.
Deep Creek—W. H. DeWitt, Geo. F. Nichols, Eli Anderson.
Grove Hill—W. D. Dunn, L. P. Chapman, Robt. McLure.
Hopewell—T. J. Roberts, A. J. Roberts.
Independence—W. A. Criswell, R. H. Morgan, J. G. Champion.
Putnam—R. L. Martin.
River Hill—S. A. Adams, T. J. Brannon.
Pine Hill—E. D. Adams, C. L. Mason.
Round Hill—A. M. Norwood, J. H. West.
Salem—A. J. Duke, T. E. Bradford.
Suggsville—R. G. Trawick, J. C. Jowers.
Antioch—J. D. Harrel, W. J. Sanders.
Good Hope—J. C. Hare.
Rockville—No messengers.
Lower Peach Tree—J. W. Gibson, H. Adams.

The Association then proceeded to elect officers.

The Moderator appointed Bros. W. A. Parker and J. W. Dickinson to take the vote.

Bro. J. H. Fendley put in nomination, for Moderator, J. R. Cowan ; for Clerk, J. H. Creighton ; for Treasurer, J. D. Cowan. There being no other names put in nomination, Bro. H. Adams was appointed to cast the vote for the Association, which he did with appropriate remarks. The tellers then announced that J. R. Cowan was elected Moderator, J. H. Creighton, Clerk, and J. D. Cowan, Treasurer.

The Moderator called for petitionary letters, when letters were presented from Antioch, Hopewell, Pine Hill and Independence, asking membership in this Association, which was granted, and the Moderator extended the right hand of fellowship to the delegates.

The Moderator extended an invitation to all visiting brethren to seats with us.

On motion of Bro. Fendley, Bro. D I. Purser, D. D., be received in his official capacity, financial secretary of Howard College, and that the first hour of the afternoon session be given him to present the claims of the college.

The Association then took recess till 2:30 p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION--2:30 O'CLOCK.

The Moderator called the Association to order.

The following committees were appointed to report during the session :

On Preaching—W. A. Parker, J. D. Cowan, W. L Henderson.
On Nominations, Documents and Requests—R J. W. DeWitt, J. W. Armistead, D. A. Megginson.
On Finance—J. F. Murphy, T. J. Cowan, T. S. Creighton.
On Distribution—S. A. Adams, J. H. Creighton, T. L Williams.

The committee on Order of Business made a report, which was adopted.

Bro. D. I. Purser presented the claims of the Sunday-school Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, urging the Sunday-schools to patronize the board.

Bro. J. F. Murphy read the report on Ministerial Education. After being discussed by Dr. Purser, the following amounts were raised for the Howard College dormitories :

John F. Murphy	$100 00	Bro. Morgan	$ 50
W. A. Criswell	50	R. K. Benson	1 00
H. Adams	21 00	N. Thomas	1 00
J. R. Cowan	31 00	T. J. Cowan	50 00
D. A. Megginson	1 00	T. A. Creighton	25 00
W. A. Parker	15 00	W. L. Henderson	15 00
E. D. Adams	15 00	J. H. Creighton	11 00
T. L. Bedsole	25 00	S. A. Adams	15 00
R. G. Trawick	15 00	Miss C. J. Richardson	10 00
J. S. Henson	15 00	N. J. Ethridge	15 00
J. W. Armistead	10 00	Mrs. S. Murphy	10 00
J. C. Guinn	5 00	Miss Dollie Jones	5 00
L. A. Smith	25 00	Mrs. C. Drew	1 00
G. W. Parker	10 00	H. W. Hunter	50
Mrs. M. V. Mott	1 00	J. D. Cowan	51 00
A. B. Hudson	10 00	J. C. Jowers	10 00
G. F. Nichols	26 00	W. D. Dunn	23 00

Albert Primm	11 00	J. W. Gibson	5 00
T. L. Williams	5 00	J. W. Dickinson	1 00
R. H. Mott	1 00	W. T. Kimbrough	1 00
J. H. Fendley	1 00	Jas. A. Autery	1 00
W. H. DeWitt	1 00	G. S. Scruggs	1 00
W. T. Jarvis	1 00	M. N. Harris	1 00
J. M. Agee	1 00	D. C. Culbreth	1 00
Mrs. T. B. Morgan	1 00		
Total			$603 00

The committee on Preaching announced that Dr. D. I. Purser was appointed to preach here at 7:15 p. m.

The association adjourned until 9 o'clock Friday. Preaching Thursday night by Dr. Purser.

Friday, 9:30 a. m. Association called to order, Brother R. J. W. DeWitt conducting devotional exercises. The committee on Bible and Colportage work made the following report, after remarks by W. A. Parker and J. H. Creighton. The report was referred to a committee composed of W. A. Parker, J. H. Creighton and W. D. Dunn to devise some plan to have this work carried on, and to report Saturday at 2:30 p. m.:

REPORT ON BIBLE AND COLPORTAGE WORK.

Your committee, to whom was referred the Bible and Colportage work of this association, would report that on the recommendation of brethren, we engaged Brother S. H. Johnston to do colportage work in this association; but, not having any report from him for several months, we are not able to report the amount of work done, though we regret to know that but little has been done. We fully realize the importance of the work, but the great difficulty is in getting a suitable man to do the work. We refer the matter back to the association, and hope that some way may be devised whereby the work can be carried on successfully.

Respectfully submitted,

J. H. Creighton,
S. A. Adams,
I. W. Martin.

The report on Religious State of the Churches was read by J. H. Fendley After remarks by H. Adams, S. A. Adams, H. J. Fendley and W. A. Parker, the report was adopted:

REPORT ON THE RELIGIOUS STATE OF THE CHURCHES.

The knowledge your committee has of the various churches composing our association is quite limited. The information we have received is mostly to be attributed to the reports of some of the brethren, published in the *Alabama Baptist* and the letters read to your body. Through this medium we are pleased to report that there has been a series of meetings at nearly all the churches, and a considerable increase of members by baptism, and churches spiritually revived; that a goodly number of our churches have organized Sabbath schools and prayer meetings that are doing some good work, and while contributions have come up from most all the churches, they are, from quite a number, less than last year.

Religion consists, evidently, in godliness, or a life devoted to the worship and fear of God; a constant care to avoid whatever He would disapprove, and to dispatch the work He has assigned us in life, and to promote His glory in the happiness of mankind.

If piety, effort and liberality, and an obvious distinction between the church and the world, be a criterion to arrive at the religious state of the churches, we must say, from our observation and what we hear, that there

is not the interest demonstrated, and light and influence emanating from our churches that should be as the light of the world. They are wanting in piety, effort and liberality, and that there is not that difference seen between the professor of religion and the non-professor that should be, to signalize the believer as the light of the world, and there is not the application of those principles and rules, derived from divine authority, which regard the purity, order, peace and useful efficiency of its members, that should be. We would therefore recommend that our churches estimate their unquestionable duty to increase the influence of religion, and seek more piety, make a greater effort and increase their liberality in the cause of the Master. The church of Christ is the only hope of our country. Not a moment is to be lost. When the statesman trembles for the republic, then it is time for Christians to act. Shall the kingdom of Christ be hastened, or shall it not? It will not be, unless an effort be made on the part of the church more intent and more universal. The providence of God calls loudly upon all religious men to be more deeply and thoroughly religious.

D. H. Fendly, Ch'n.

On motion of Brother W. A. Parker, the following brethren were invited in their official capacity: Rev. W. B. Crumpton, Corresponding Secretary of State Mission Board; Rev. George E. Brewer, Agent for the American Baptist Publication Society; Rev. J. M. Kailin, Agent for the *Alabama Baptist;* Revs. J. W. Dickinson and D. C. Culbreth, messengers from the Cahaba Association; Rev. J. L. Tucker, messenger from Bigbee Association; Rev. S. Q. Webb, from Bethel Association, also Brother J. B. Perkins from the same.

The Committee on Aged and Infirm Ministers made their report, and, after slight amendments, the reportwas adopted.

REPORT ON AGED AND INFIRM MINISTERS AND THEIR WIDOWS.

Your Committee on Aged and Infirm Ministers and their Widows ask to report: That we received $53 85 from the treasurer of the association, which we divided equally between Brother N. Thomas and Sisters De Witt. Hickson, Kelley and Stringer, widows of deceased ministers, and Sister Hadaway. We find that some of the churches send their contributions for aged and infirm ministers to the State Board. Our aged Brother Thomas and these widows of our deceased brethren are growing physically weaker; therefore they are becoming more needy. We would recommend that our churches increase their contributions to this fund.

Respectfully submitted,

J. V. Stringer,
G. L. Williams,
J. H. Creighton.

Adopted.

Brother W. A. Parker read the report on Religious Literature. After speeches by Revs. W. B. Crumpton, J. M. Kailin, W. A. Parker, G. E. Brewer and D. C. Culbreth, the report was adopted.

REPORT ON RELIGIOUS LITERATURE.

It is a universally conceded fact that no more potent influence is abroad in the land than that which, like a continuously flowing tide, proceeds in constantly increasing volume from the public press.

The Devil appreciates this fact, and has appropriated to his own foul designs the destruction of human souls, perhaps two-thirds of the literature of the day. Our public thoroughfares, trains and steamboats, are ever

flooded with a species of reading matter more or less soul-damning in its effects.

Equally potent for good is the press, when sanctified by the Spirit of God. The Lord's hosts are, in a great measure, awaking to a proper conception of this power, and are rapidly availing us of its advantages for the propagation of the principles of the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

To this end our publication societies are all the while putting upon the market books and periodicals of sound scientific and religious sentiment, which, if circulated and read, would counteract the Devil's work in this line, and preserve many a soul from destruction.

We would earnestly recommend to the patronage of our people The Alabama Baptist, Foreign Mission Journal, The Home Field, The Western Recorder and Ford's Christian Repository, and the State Mission Quarterly, and would especially insist that the churches of this association fail not to circulate The Alabama Baptist, Foreign Mission Journal and Home Field.

And to the Sunday schools we would most affectionately urge the propriety of using the Kind Words series of lesson helps, published in Nashville, Tenn., by the Sunday School Publication Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Respectfully submitted,

H. Adams, Ch'n.

The association then adjourned until 2:30 p. m.

2:30 p. m. The Moderator called the association to order. Prayer by Brother George E. Brewer.

The report on Ministerial Education was taken up and re-read and further discussed by J. W. Dickinson and W. B. Crumpton; amended and adopted:

REPORT ON MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

Teaching always precedes learning. Then, logically, truth is imparted by right teaching, while error is the result of incorrect instruction. The truth now extant is the importation of sound teachers, whereas the divers false doctrines in the world have been propagated through as many teachers of like character to the doctrines.

As ministers are teachers who must first be correctly taught, in order to rightly divide the Word of Truth, we cannot be too much concerned about their education.

Paul stated an obvious, an inspired fact, when he said, "Ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called." Our wise Christian educators encourage young ministers in being self-reliant, and, as far as possible, educating themselves. But, at the same time, they do not ignore the fact stated by Paul, that most of the men called of God to preach, are unlearned and poor. After doing all they can toward self-education, they still need much assistance from God's people, or they will not be thoroughly equipped for their work. These experienced educators recognize another scriptural fact: That while the Holy Spirit is the supreme ministerial instructor, He operates through Christians in the use of human means for divine instruction. Had it been God's will, He could have saved people without ministers and without money; but, according to divine economy, ministers need money no worse, as a means of education, than God's people need to give it as a means of grace.

The church that pays its pastor by calling another, receives meagre benefit from his ministry, and does not love and appreciate him any more than our people would love and appreciate an educated ministry without incurring the trouble and expense of educating them, or than parents would love their children without trouble and the same substantial manifestation of interest. A giving people is a blessed people, and *vice versa*.

Preachers are, or ought to be, leaders, and in order to attain most successful leadership, their secular education should be equally as good, or better,

than that of their flock, and they should be far in advance of them in scriptural and spiritual training.

Please notice, before God conferred on Moses the leadership of Israel, in addition to his good mother's training, he gave him access to Egyptian schools in which he became learned in all the ways of the Egyptians. Afterward, in his providence he carried him through a long course of spiritual training.

Paul, who abounded more exceeding abundantly in good works than all the apostles, was second in education to no minister save him who spake as never man spake.

We would not detract from or depreciate the labors of ministers who lack college and seminary training. No doubt they have served their times well and at the last great day it shall appear that millions of souls have been led to Christ through their labors in the Lord. But what they have accomplished under God has been the result of such educations as they had. If all the godly ministers of the past were living, no doubt they would say with us that times are changing, and the cause of education has received a mighty impetus. We also believe they would unite with us in saying that they could have done a vast deal more with a thorough ministerial training than they have accomplished without it; that with the duties of pastorates and the support of families pressing upon them, by assiduous application they have been able to only partially supply this painful lack of efficient training without the help of our well equipped schools.

Last year the 2 600 members of our Association raised $61.10 for ministerial education and Howard College. Howard College and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary are in every way worthy of our patronage.

I. W. Martin,
Jno. F. Murphy,
J. J. Prim.

Amended by agreeing to raise $100.

The Committe on Nominations, Documents and Requests made the following report, which was amended as to the time of meeting and then adopted:

REPORT ON NOMINATIONS, DOCUMENTS AND REQUESTS.

Your committee on Nominations, Documents and Requests make the following report:

We nominate for delegates to the Alabama Baptist Convention, J. H. Fendley, W. A. Parker, G. F. Nichols, S. A. Adams, M. H. Robinson, W. D. Dunn, J. H. Creighton, W. H. DeWitt, W. L. Henderson, as alternate any who may attend the Convention.

That J. H. Fendley preach the introductory sermon at the next session of the Association; W, A. Parker, alternate.

We recommend that the next session of this body be held with the Forest Springs church on Thursday before the third Sunday in September, 1892.

We find requests from Antioch, Pine Hill, Independence and Hopewell churches for membership in Association, which have been granted. We also find a request from Antioch church for $15.00 to aid them in building a house. After due consideration we believe it to be a bad precedent, and therefore recommend that the Association do not concur in the request.

R. J. W. DeWitt, Ch'n.

The Association adjourned to meet at 9 a. m. to-morrow.

SATURDAY.

9 A. M. The Moderator called the Association to order. Bro. J. L. Tucker conducted devotional exercises.

On motion, the order of business was suspended and the report on Woman's Work was read by W. A. Parker. After remarks by W. B. Crumpton and S. A. Adams the report was adopted.

REPORT ON WOMAN'S WORK.

This is a subject that is stirring the hearts of consecrated women all over this Southland of ours, and in fact all over this continent, and the work that is being done has assumed great proportions. While this is the case, there is, in the mind of some, decided opposition to the work. But under the pressure of the present age, with its push and progressive spirit, can we wonder that these influences are developing the latant forces in these consecrated hearts? The minister or church that fails to recognize this fact robs himself of a wonderful force and the church suffers in proportion. Only two church letters mentioned Women's Work. I hope that there will be a decided effort made the incoming associational year to do something in that direction. I had gathered some statistics for this report, but have them not to hand just now.

Respectfully,

W. H. DeWitt, Ch'n.

The following resolution was offered by Bro. R. H. Benson, and after remarks by Bros. H. Adams, R. H. Benson, W. B. Crumpton and W. A. Parker, was adopted :

Resolved, That the Clerk of each church in the South Bethel Association be requested, on receiving a member by letter, to return a certificate to the church from which said letter was granted, stating that said letter has been received.

The report on Missions was read by Bro. W. A. Parker. After speeches by Bro. W. B. Crumpton, Kailin, Culbreth and Creighton, the report was adopted:

REPORT ON MISSIONS.

Missions is justly the greatest question of the present age. Indeed missions is the problem, that when Scripturally solved, will ultimate in the consummation of the divine glory.

"That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father," might be said to be the chief edict uttered by divine inspiration.

Until Christ comes this will not be fulfilled; until this gospel be preached to all nations for a witness, Christ will not come. Then, at a glance, we may observe the direct bearing of the great commission upon the coming and crowning of Jesus.

"Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature," is but an epitome of the divine purpose, involving the means by which God shall accomplish the subjection of the world to Christ; and the discharge of the duty appointed to the churches in this commission should be the highest aspiration on the part of God's children.

There are three things needful in order to the fulfillment of the commission:

1. Men deeply embued with the constraining love of Christ.
2. Educational qualification to bear the gospel.
3. Adequate money to prosecute the work.

The first, God in answer to prayer for laborers, abundantly furnishes. The second, by his blessings upon our colleges and seminaries is not lacking. But alas! While many are, under the constraining love of the Savior, crying, "Here am I, send me," and are fully prepared, educationally, the third, and by no means least necessity, the Lord's money, is withheld by his stingy, money-loving children.

My brethren, here is the great obstacle that to-day interposes to prevent the speedy coming of the Savior. The world is ripe, men are plentiful, but the money needed is lacking. Judging from the financial statistics in letters to this Association, we, my brethren, do not seem to be awake to the obligations binding upon us, to supply the need.

What shall we do? How shall the money be obtained? We have said, "the first need" is supplied by the Lord, in answer to prayer. He must by the Holy Spirit, bestow the constraining love of Christ, and it is a fact that just in proportion as God's people pray earnestly and faithfully for missions, does he put it into the hearts of his people to give of their substance for the spread of the gospel.

This Association gave last year, my brethren, six hundred and eighteen dollars for missions, and there has evidently been, from the showing in our letters, a sad falling off from this amount ($281 00 this year). Why? The scarcity of money!

If this be urged as a reasonable excuse, we have only to cite to God's demand upon Israel in the days of the Prophet Malachi, "Bring ye unto my store house," etc.

Poverty, my brethren, is no Scriptural excuse for not giving to missions, but on the other hand is indeed the fruit of not giving. Emphatically does the word of God teach, "that which is scattered in God's behalf does increase."

Now, in the light of the foregoing, if there be genuine deficit in the fulfillment of our promises to missions this year, let's meet it, and God shall bless us. And your committee would affectionately urge that the Association meet fully and promptly the following amounts asked by our boards for the next ensuing year, viz:

The State Mission Board	$400 00
The Foreign Mission Board	264 00
The Home Mission Board	136 00

And, furthermore, as the Foreign Mission Board proposes to celebrate next year the Centennial of Modern Missions by sending to foreign fields one hundred missionaries, let us increase by a handsome degree the request made by this board.

Respectfully submitted,

WM. A PARKER,
S. A. ADAMS,
JAS. W. ARMISTEAD.

The committee on preaching announced that Rev. J. W. Dickinson would preach at Thomasville at 7.15 p. m., and that Rev. S. A. Adams would preach at Choctaw Corner at the same hour.

On account of the Association holding a session to-night there was no preaching at Thomasville. Rev. H. Adams preached at Choctaw Corner.

The Association adjourned to meet at 7:30 p. m.

NIGHT SESSION.

7:30 Called to order by the Moderator. Prayer by Bro. L. A. Smith.

The report on Temperance was read by S. A. Adams. After speeches by S. A. Adams, J. L. Tucker, W. A. Parker, J. W. Dickinson and W. B. Crumpton, the report was adopted:

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

Your committee, in reporting on Temperance, will say, that we recognize it as being a gospel principle, set forth not only in the life of Christ but as taught in the Word of God. We are taught to add temperance to such principles as faith, virtue and knowledge.

Its importance as a gospel principle is still more intensified, when we remember that it is found in the catalogue with such principles as the fruit of the Spirit. This we take as meaning, that he who does not teach temperance by his life fails in that respect to give evidence of Christianity.

Your committee, however, appreciates the fact that its province is to report on Temperance, as it relates to alcoholic and spirituous liquors.

We are sorry that we are not sufficiently acquainted with the condition of the temperance cause in the country generally, to give a satisfactory report. We are glad, however, to say that we believe that the temperance and prohibition sentiment in the State is growing and that the cause is on fairer ground. This is evident by the fact that the territory for prohibition is increased by each sitting of the legislature, also that it was exceedingly rare that a prohibition law was repealed, while there were a large number of local prohibitory laws passed by the legislature.

It is true the temperance bill framed by the Baptist State Convention was defeated, but we do not accept this as being a true expression of the temperance sentiment of the people. It is due probably to political influences brought to bear especially from cities and a want of prompt and timely action upon the part of the friends of temperance. But the fact that it came so near being passed, and the fact that the bill virtually provided for prohibition throughout the State, gives a strong expression of the temperance sentiment

Again, the newspapers throughout the State, that speak out on the subject, are in favor of temperance. Many of them are silent, and we fear criminally so; while few, if any, take a positive stand against prohibition. Indeed we believe that the sentiment in favor of temperance is so strong that it would be suicide in a paper to take such a stand. We are glad to report that our own paper has taken and maintained a noble stand on this subject; and we believe that it is but justice to say, that we believe that the increased sympathy for prohibition in the country is due, no little, to the bold and fearless teachings of the Alabama Baptist.

As to the cause of temperance and prohibition in our Association, we believe that it is stronger than a year ago, evidenced by the prompt action of the grand jury in suppressing an effort to violate the prohibitory law, by selling a substitute for whisky. It is possible, yes, very probable, that in one or two places in the county the law is being violated in the "wild cat" process; and it is binding on us not only as Christians, but as citizens and friends of morality to bring to light and justice these emissaries of darkness, who would ruin their country and countrymen for selfish ends.

In conclusion, we would say, while we are in favor of every laudable means of securing prohibition, we recognize the gospel of Christ as preached from the pulpit, and lived in the lives of God's children, as the greatest power in the salvation of our country from the curse of alcohol, because it is God's power. Respectfully submitted,

S A. Adams,
J. H. Fendley,
A. W. Etheridge.

The committee to whom was referred the Bible and Colportage Work made the following report:

REPORT ON BIBLE AND COLPORTAGE WORK.

Your committee has taken under consideration the propriety of endeavoring to do active work in this line in this association, and beg leave to report, that in our opinion, this medium of power and influence should not be totally neglected.

That we authorize the appointment of a committee who shall confer with the Executive Committee of the Bethel Association, and, if thought practical, unite with that association, and together employ an active man, who shall devote part, or all of his time, to the work within the bonads of the two.

Wm. A. Parker, Ch'n.

The following resolution was adopted :

Resolved, That the Treasurer be instructed to pay over to Bro. I. W. Martin $50 out of the funds for Ministerial Education, to help defray his expenses in the Seminary at Louisville, Ky., and the balance of the funds in the treasury be paid to Bro. E H. Perry; also Bro. W. A. Parker be authorized and requested to collect from the church enough to make the whole amount to Bro. Perry $25.00

Adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock a. m. Sunday.

SUNDAY.

9 O'CLOCK A. M.

Association called to order.

The Moderator announced the standing committees. (See 2nd page of cover).

The roll was called and corrected.

The report on Sunday-schools was read by Bro. John F. Murphy. After remarks by W. L. Henderson, J. F. Murphy, L. A. Smith, J. M. Kailin and W. B. Crumpton, it was adopted:

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Your committee submit the following report:

There has been an increase in the number of churches in this association of 3, and now we have thirty-seven churches composing the South Bethel Association, aggregating a membership of 2,792; an increase over last report of 248 members. We learn from the letters sent to this body, out of the 37 churches there are but 16 that report Sunday-schools, with a membership of 570; a falling off of 81 pupils from last year's report. This leaves 21 churches in our association that do not have Sunday-schools. This is certainly a sad exhibit for this large body of Christians, and should make Christian people awake to their duty in this grand and glorious work of our Lord and Master. The Sunday school is the nursery of our churches, and it is here the father and mother should take—not send—their children, while in tender age, and consecrate them to God, so they may learn of Him who gave them life and said, 'Suffer little children to come unto me, for of such is the kingdom of Heaven." We would ask especially the mothers to take interest in the Sabbath-school work. Your hearts will be gladdened in future years by it; your boys and girls will have truths impressed upon their hearts and minds that will make them men and women who will glorify God and be an honor to you. Let us beseech you, mothers, not to delay in this work, but take hold, and we are sure that our next report will be a bright page in our minutes for the next associational year.

We would ask the brethren in the name of Christ, our Savior, to let us, to a man, take up this good work and do something to brighten the future of ourselves and our children. It is in the Sunday-school all can find work they can do. If our members would attend the Sunday-schools the day would soon come that we would have a body of earnest Christian workers in this association that would influence the sinner to serve God.

We do recommend that our preachers do more and try to impress upon their flocks the great importance of a Sunday-school in their churches. We also recommend that a committee of four earnest workers in Sunday-schools be appointed to confer with the churches in a given district and work up the Sunday-school interest and make reports to this body at its next sitting. We would recommend to our churches and Sunday-schools of this association the Kind Words series of Sunday-school lesson-helps, published at

Nashville, Tenn., by the Southern Baptist Convention, as being worthy of their patronage. We would further recommend that schools needing libraries or hymn books and periodicals, should correspond with the American Baptist Publication Society, Philadelphia.

Respectfully submitted, JNO. F. MURPHY, Ch'n.

The Missionary sermon was preached by Rev. W. B. Crumpton.

After the sermon the following amounts were raised for missions:

W. L Henderson	$5 00	R. H. Mott	$5 00
D. C. Culbreth	5 00	J. D. Cowan	5 00
J. H. Creighton	5 00	S. P. Noble	5 00
J. M. Wilson	5 00	Dr Hunt	5 00
J. H. Fendley	5 00	T. J. Cowan	5 00
J. F. Murphy	5 00	J. R. Holloman	2 50
L A. Smith	1 00	S A. Adams	1 50
H. Adams	1 00	W. H. Henson	1 00
J. S. Henson	1 00	R F. Trawick	2 00
Bro. Blount	2 00	J Privitt	1 00
Mrs. Fannie Powell	1 00	W. B Nutting	1 00
J. A. Hudson	5 00	Mrs. W. J. Thornton	1 00
C. H. Fendley	1 50	Bro. Downey	50
T. L. Williams	50	G. B. Hall	2 00
Mrs. John Gilmore	1 00	W. A. Parker	50
Hat collection	20 80		
Total			$101 80

Recess till 2 o'clock p. m.

2 P. M. Association called to order.

The association elected W. A. Parker delegate to the Southern Baptist Convention, and S. A. Adams and J. H. Creighton, alternates.

The Finance Committee made report, which was adopted. See Financial Exhibit of association.

The following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That this association return thanks to the people of Thomasville and surrounding community for their kind hospitality extended to us, and to the Methodist brethren for the use of their church.

Resolved, That the Treasurer be instructed to pay balance due the employes of the State Board within the bounds of this association, for their services during the associational year. Said amount to be paid out of the State Mission fund, balance of said fund to be paid to Bro. Crumpton; funds for Howard College to be paid to Dr. D. I. Purser, Financial Agent for college. Funds for Ministerial Education, except amount already voted to Bros. Perry and Martin, to Bro. Geo. W. Ellis, Montgomery, Ala; funds for Bible and Colportage be sent to Bro. J. B Collier, Opelika, Ala; funds for aged and infirm ministers and widows and orphans to be paid to committee on same; funds for minutes to be paid to Clerk to have as many minutes printed as possible, after reserving $15.00 for services.

JNO F. MURPHY.
W. L. HENDERSON,
GEO F NICHOLS,
W. A PACE,
Committee to do the work suggested by Bro. Murphy.

The association adjourned to meet with Forest Springs on Thursday before the third Sunday in September, 1892.

J. H. CREIGHTON, Clerk. J. R. COWAN, Moderator.

LIST OF ORDAINED MINISTERS.

H. Adams..... Lower Peach Tree
S. A. Adams .....Salitpa
J. H. Creighton.....Whatley
Wm. Hill.....Whatey
W. H. DeWitt.....Nicholsville
R. J. W. DeWitt.....Jackson
A. W. Ethridge.....Morvin
J. H. Fendley.....Behrman
J. D. Hudson.....Choctaw Corner
I. W. Martin.....Walker Springs
W. A. Parker.....Thomasville
J. V. Stringer.....Jackson
N. Thomas.....Pine Hill
W. W. Whatley.....Winn.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Call for Petitionary Letters.
2. Invite visiting members to seats with us.
3. Call for Correspondents.
4. Appoint Committee on Preaching.
5. Appoint Committee on Nominations.
6. Appoint Committee on Deceased Ministers and Deacons.
7. Appoint Committee on Publications.
8. Appoint Committee on Documents.
9. Appoint Committee on Finance.
10. Arrange the Hours of Meeting and Adjourning.
11. Appoint Correspondents.
12. Elect Delegates to State Convention.
13. Elect Executive Committee and Treasurer.
14. Call for Report of Executive Committee.
15. Call for Report on Missions (A) State, (B) Home, (C) Foreign.
16. Call for Report on Temperance.
17. Call for Report on Aged and Indigent Ministers, and Deceased Ministers' Families.
18. Reading of the Circular Letter.
19. Call for Report on Sabbath-schools.
20. Call for Colporteur's Report.
21. Call for Treasurer's Report.
22. Call for Report on Education.
23. Call for Report on Publications.
24. Call for Report on Deceased Ministers and Deacons.
25. Call for Report on Nominations.
26. Call for Report on Documents.
27. Arrange Time and Place for Next Session.
28. Call for Report on Finance.
29. Appoint Standing Committees.
    - On State Missions.
    - On Home Missions.
    - On Foreign Missions,
    - On Sabbath-schools,
    - On Education,
    - On Temperance,
    - On Aged and Infirm Ministers,
    - On Church Building Funds.
30. Read Minutes.
31. Adjourn.

☞Fifteen minutes allotted for miscellaneous business at the opening of each session.

AMOUNTS ASKED FOR BY THE ASSOCIATION.

CHURCHES.	State Missions.	Home Missions.	Foreign Missions.	Indigent Ministers.	Ministerial Education.	Bible and Colportage.	Total.
Amity	$ 9 00	$ 4 50	$ 4 50	$ 3 00	$ 3 00	$ 1 00	$ 25 00
Antioch	2 00	1 00	1 00	50	25	25	5 00
Bassett's Creek	9 00	4 50	4 50	3 00	3 00	1 00	25 00
Cane Creek	6 00	3 00	3 00	2 50	2 50	1 00	18 00
Canetouchy	3 00	1 00	1 00	1 00	50	50	7 00
Dead Level	5 00	2 50	2 50	2 00	2 00	1 00	15 00
Deep Creek	30 00	15 00	15 00	7 00	7 00	1 00	75 00
Elam	18 00	9 00	9 00	6 00	6 00	2 00	50 00
Enon	9 00	4 50	4 50	3 00	3 00	1 00	25 00
Evergreen	6 00	3 00	3 00	3 00	2 00	1 00	18 00
Forest Springs	20 00	10 00	10 00	13 00	10 00	2 00	65 00
Good Hope	6 00	3 00	3 00	1 00	1 00	1 00	15 00
Grove Hill	28 00	14 00	14 00	7 00	6 00	1 00	70 00
Hoboken	10 00	5 00	5 00	2 25	1 75	1 00	25 00
Horeb	10 00	5 00	5 00	3 00	1 00	1 00	25 00
Hopewell	4 00	2 00	2 00	1 00	50	50	10 00
Independence	4 00	2 00	2 00	1 00	50	50	10 00
Jackson	7 00	3 50	3 50	2 00	3 00	1 00	20 00
Lower Peach Tree	10 00	5 00	5 00	2 00	2 00	1 00	25 00
Mt. Gilead	9 00	4 50	4 50	3 00	3 00	1 00	25 00
Mt. Vernon	9 00	4 50	4 50	2 00	3 00	1 00	24 00
Midway	12 50	6 25	6 25	2 00	2 00	1 00	30 00
New Prospect	6 00	3 00	3 00	1 50	1 50	1 00	16 00
Peniel	10 00	5 00	5 00	2 00	2 00	1 00	25 00
Pine Hill	10 00	5 00	5 00	2 00	2 00	1 00	25 00
Pleasant Grove	10 00	5 00	5 00	2 00	2 00	1 00	25 00
Putnam	7 00	3 50	3 50	2 00	3 00	1 00	20 00
River Hill	13 00	6 00	6 00	2 00	2 00	1 00	30 00
Rockville	5 0	2 50	2 50	1 00	50	50	12 00
Round Hill	8 00	4 00	4 00	2 00	1 50	50	20 00
Salem	16 00	8 00	8 00	4 00	3 00	1 00	40 00
Stave Creek	5 00	2 50	2 50	2 50	2 00	50	15 00
Suggsville	5 00	2 50	2 50	2 50	2 00	50	15 00
Thomasville	13 00	6 00	6 00	2 00	2 00	1 00	30 00
Ulconush	18 00	9 00	9 00	9 00	9 00	1 00	55 00
West Bend	16 00	8 00	8 00	4 00	3 00	1 00	40 00
Witch Creek	8 00	4 00	4 00	2 00	1 50	50	20 00
District meetings	20 00	10 00	10 00	.....	.....	.....	40 00
Total	$396 50	$196 75	$196 75	$110 75	$100 00	$34 25	$1,035 00

FINANCIAL EXHIBIT OF SOUTH BETHEL ASSOCIATION, 1891.

CHURCHES.	Home Missions.	Foreign Missions.	State Missions.	Indigent Ministers.	Bible and Colportage.	Ministerial Education	Minutes.	Women's Society. Home Missions.	Women's Society. Foreign Missions.	Women's Society. State Missions.	Total.	Pastor's Salary.	Repairs, Fuel, the Poor, etc.	Value of Building and Furniture.
District meeting	$ 3 20	$ 3 25	$ 4 27											
Amity	2 00	2 30	2 45		$ 25	$ 1 50	$ 1 50				$ 10 00	$ 75	$ 6 50	$ 600 00
Antioch	3 20	3 25					50				6 95		300 00	300 00
Bassett's Creek	2 00	2 00	2 00	$ 2 00	50		1 50				10 00	100	30 00	380 00
Cane Creek	60	25	50			25	70				2 30	50		
Canetouchy	1 00	1 00	2 00	30			25				4 55	25		200 00
Dead Level	2 00	1 50	1 50	50	50	1 00	1 00				8 00	50		250 00
Deep Creek	15 00	15 00	30 00	7 00	1 00	7 00	1 00				76 30	150		500 00
Elam	2 00	2 40	2 00				1 50				7 90	150	300 00	400 00
Enon	1 00	1 00	1 00	1 00			1 00				5 00	75		250 00
Evergreen		1 09	2 90	2 00	4 89						10 88	54		300 00
Forest Springs	9 00	9 00	18 00	9 00	3 00	12 00	3 00				63 00	150		500 00
Good Hope	1 50	1 50	2 00	65		75	1 00				7 40	75	6 00	300 00
Grove Hill	15 60	21 75	27 60				2 50				67 45	150		800 00
Hoboken	4 00	4 00	8 90	3 00	80	1 00	1 35				23 05			500 00
Horeb	2 00	2 00	7 55	1 50	50	2 00	1 25				16 80	50	60 00	700 00
Hopewell	60		50				1 00				2 10			
Independence							1 55				1 55			300 00
Jackson	2 00	2 00	1 00	3 00		1 00	1 00				10 00	100	1,000 00	1,000 00
Lower Peach Tree	2 00	3 80	4 95	50	50	50					12 25	58		
Mt. Gilead	4 50	4 50	9 00	3 00	1 00	2 00	1 25				25 25	75	100 00	500 00
Mt. Vernon	2 00	2 00	2 00	1 70			1 50				9 20	65		300 00
Midway	2 50	2 50	5 00	2 00	1 00	2 00	1 55				16 55	100	9 80	500 00
New Prospect	1 00	55	1 00				1 00				3 55			300 00
Peniel														
Pine Hill		3 5					1 50				5 25		430 00	593 00
Pleasant Grove	75	80	2 00	5 0			1 00				9 55		3 00	350 00
Putnam	2 50	2 50	2 50			2 50	1 25				11 25			300 00
River Hill	2 50	8 00	7 00	1 00	1 80	70	1 50				22 10	100	100 00	650 00
Round Hill	1 50	1 00		60			1 50				4 60	50		300 00
Salem	6 00	6 00	12 00	3 00	1 00	1 00	2 50				31 50	75		500 00
Stave Creek	1 00	1 00	3 00	1 00			75				6 75			300 00
Suggsville	4 05	4 05	7 15	2 50	80	1 85	50				20 90	50		600 00
Thomasville	5 00	5 0·	25 09	2 00	1 00	7 65	2 00				47 74	200	188 00	2,300 00
Ulconush	4 50	4 50	13 00	2 50	3 06	10 00	2 25				39 81	150		500 00
West Bend	7 00	7 00	14 00	4 00	2 00	10 00	1 50				45 50	150		750 00
Witch Creek	7 50		4 00	1 00	1 00	1 50	2 00				17 00			350 00
Rockville		1 20	1 30								2 50	50		200 00
Collected at Association								$25 00	$25 00	$50 00				
Total	$146 00	$156 44	$279 16	$59 75	$23 60	$66 20	$45 15				$764 38	$2,377	$2,533 30	$15,323 00

Name of Moderator—J. R. Cowan; Postoffice of Moderator—Cunningham, Ala. Name of Clerk—J. H. Creighton; Postoffice of Clerk—Whatley Ala. Session of 1892 to be held with Forest Springs church, Clarke county, on Thursday, before third Sunday in September, 1892.

STATISTICS OF SOUTH BETHEL ASSOCIATION, 1891.

CHURCHES.	COUNTY.	PASTOR.	CLERK.	CLERK'S POST-OFFICE.	No. Ordained Ministers.	No. Licensed Ministers.	Membership last Reported.	Increase by Baptism	Increase by Letter.	Restoration.	Decrease by Letter.	Exclusion.	Erasure.	Death.	Present Membership.	S. S. Officers and Teachers	S. S. Pupils.	Preaching Sabbaths.	Reports Prayer Meeting.	Reports Revival.
Amity	Clarke	J. H. Creighton	J. T. Foreman	Whatley	...	...	63	14	1	...	...	2	...	2	69	7	38	4	1	1
Antioch	Clarke	J. V. Stringer	J. C. Brown	Nealton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	...	...	...	...	...
Bassett's Creek	Clarke	J. H. Fendley	C. Heudley	Behrman	1	...	100	13	8	...	1	2	...	2	118	6	91	3	...	1
Cane Creek	Wilcox	W. V. Vice	E. L. Morgan	Pine Hill	...	...	80	1	1	...	40	...	...	...	38	...	...	...	...	...
Canetouchy	Clarke	R. J. W. DeWitt	J. G. Overstreet	Tattillaba	...	...	26	...	4	...	4	...	...	...	30	...	...	4	...	...
Dead Level	Clarke	A. W. Ethridge	B. A. Clanton	Dead Level	...	...	52	5	2	1	8	...	...	...	52	...	...	1	1	1
Deep Creek	Marengo	W. H. DeWitt	G. F. Nichols	Nicholsville	1	...	96	8	2	1	9	...	...	...	98	3	45	3	...	...
Elam	Clarke	J. H. Fendley	W. B. Harrison	Choctaw Corner	...	...	177	5	4	2	10	...	...	2	165	10	50	2	...	...
Enon	Wilcox	J. H. Fendley	B. F. Weatherly	Pine Hill	1	...	79	8	1	2	9	...	...	2	79	9	37	1	1	1
Evergreen	Clarke	I. W. Martin	W. T. Bradley	Walker Springs	...	...	23	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	31	8	32	3	...	...
Forest Springs	Clarke	H. Adams	D. F. Little	Morvin	1	...	175	4	1	...	4	...	...	2	174	...	...	4	...	...
Good Hope	Clarke	J. H. Creighton	W. H. Williamson	Grove Hill	...	...	58	10	5	1	4	1	...	2	67	5	25	1	1	1
Grove Hill	Clarke	S. A. Adams	J. W. Cunningham	Grove Hill	...	...	110	11	5	...	3	...	...	2	121	4	40	2	...	1
Horeb	Clarke	J. H. Creighton	J. H. Creighton	Whatley	2	...	61	2	4	2	4	...	...	...	65	4	35	3	1	1
Hopewell	Clarke	J. D. Hudson	A. J. Roberts	Dead Level	...	...	...	20	2	...	...	1	...	...	51	...	...	2	...	...
Independence	Wilcox	W. V. Vice	D. A. Crocker	Sunny South	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47	4	24	...	...	...
Jackson	Clarke	S. A. Adams	G. S. Chapman	Jackson	...	...	11	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	12	...	...	3	...	...
L. Peach Tree	Wilcox	I. W. Martin	W. A. Wilson	L. Peach Tree	1	...	25	1	5	...	1	...	...	1	30	1	10	1	...	...
Mt. Gilead	Clarke	J. H. Creighton	J. N. Jones	Walker Springs	...	...	52	3	3	2	...	...	...	1	59	1	25	2	...	1
Mt. Vernon	Clarke	Webb	J. C. Morgan	Pine Hill	...	...	117	2	...	...	9	4	...	2	102	...	...	3	...	...
Midway	Clarke	J. H. Fendley	C. W. Burge	Tallahatta Springs	1	1	117	10	10	1	2	...	...	1	135	...	...	1	1	1
New Prospect	Clarke	A. W. Ethridge	Henry White	McIntyre	...	...	85	10	1	...	10	2	...	4	80	...	...	2	...	...
Peniel	Clarke	W. W. Whatley	F. M. Flemming	Nealton	...	...	100	...	...	...	15	...	...	...	85	...	...	2	...	...
Pine Hill	Wilcox	W. H. DeWitt	C. L. Mason	Pine Hill	...	...	...	1	9	...	1	...	...	...	27	6	48	2	...	...
Pleasant Grove	Clarke	R. J. W. DeWitt	I. J. Pitman	Tattillaba	1	...	71	12	5	...	...	...	...	1	89	...	...	...	...	...
Putnam	Marengo	J. L. Tucker	E. D. Little	Putnam	...	...	47	9	8	2	2	...	...	...	61	3	25	1	...	...
River Hill	Clarke	S. A. Adams	Wm. Cox	Salitpa	1	...	90	11	6	1	...	...	...	1	100	...	...	1	1	1
Rockville	Clarke	I. W. Martin	F. T. Payne	Singleton	...	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	4	...	...
Round Hill	Clarke	H. Adams	T. M. Nelson	Rural	...	...	79	...	1	...	2	...	...	2	77	...	...	...	...	...
Salem	Clarke	R. J. W. DeWitt	R. K. Benson	L. Peach Tree	...	...	118	27	7	6	3	3	...	...	147	...	...	4	...	...
Stave Creek	Clarke	R. J. W. DeWitt	H. P. W. Howell	Jackson	2	...	44	...	1	2	...	...	...	1	46	...	...	1	...	...
Suggsville	Clarke	I. W. Martin	J. C. Gowers	Suggsville	...	...	20	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	20	...	...	2	1	...
Thomasville	Clarke	W. H. Parker	G. W. Parker	Thomasville	1	...	52	1	1	...	3	1	...	1	56	5	55	1&3	...	...
Ulconush	Clarke	J. L. Tucker	J. D. Bedwell	Coffeeville	...	...	201	17	7	2	7	1	...	...	219	...	...	3	...	...
West Bend	Clarke	S. A. Adams	W. P. Thornton	West Bend	1	...	38	3	2	...	1	...	1	1	41	...	...	4	...	...
Witch Creek	Clarke	A. W. Ethridge	J. J. Bullock	Campbell	...	...	67	3	3	1	8	1	...	1	75	...	...	3	...	...
Hoboken	Marengo	J. L. Tucker	M. M. Tucker	Nicholsville	...	...	74	2	3	...	6	1	...	...	76	...	...	4	...	...
Total					14	1	2515	208	116	29	162	17	2	33	2772	79	516			

SUNDAY-SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS AND THEIR POSTOFFICES—W. A. Tharp, Amity church, Vashti; J. T. Daniel, Bassett's Creek church, Behrman; J. F. Nichols, Deep Creek church, Nicholsville; W. Williams, Elam church, Gloster; T. J. Pearson, Enon church, Pine Hill; J. H. Murphy, Evergreen church, Walker Springs; J. D. Williams, Good Hope church, Grove Hill; I. Grant, Grove Hill church, Grove Hill; W. H. Hill, Horeb church, Whatley; J. J. Champion, Independence church, Sunny South; T. K. Nichols, Mt. Gilead church, Walker Springs; C. L. Mason, Pine Hill church, Pine Hill; J. S. Hart, River Hill church, Salitpa; W. L. Henderson, Thomasville church, Thomasville; W. A. Pace, West Bend church, West Bend.

Name of Church organized during year—Pine Hill, Independence, Antioch. Name of Church received from other Associations—Hopewell church, from Bethel Association.

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